

DATE: 11/03/2008
TIME: 1:22 P.M.
ACTIVITY: Rod Blagojevich home line incoming call.
SESSION: 149

SPEAKERS:

BLAGOJEVICH: Rod Blagojevich
HARRIS: John Harris

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1 BLAGOJEVICH Hey.
2 HARRIS Hello.
3 BLAGOJEVICH You there?
4 HARRIS Yep.
5 BLAGOJEVICH So Balanoff and Andy Stern are comin' in
6 to talk about Valerie Jarrett.
7 HARRIS Oh, they are.
8 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah. Obama told Andy Stern he wants
9 her.
10 HARRIS Okay.
11 BLAGOJEVICH That's the tipoff we got from Doug,
12 tellin' Greenlee.
13 HARRIS So, is, is, is Andy the chosen
14 messenger?
15 BLAGOJEVICH I don't know.
16 HARRIS I mean, I, we, we gotta find out from
17 Andy when he...how, how long ago did
18 Andy try to set this meeting up?
19 BLAGOJEVICH Last week.
20 HARRIS Okay. So it was before my discussion
21 with Rahm?

1 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

2 HARRIS Okay. Okay.

3 BLAGOJEVICH And Emil's callin' Balanoff.

4 HARRIS And Emil's callin' Balanoff?

5 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

6 HARRIS To do what?

7 BLAGOJEVICH For him.

8 HARRIS For himself?

9 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

10 HARRIS Okay.

11 BLAGOJEVICH Emil wants me to come to his box
12 tomorrow, his suite.

13 HARRIS Well we can always tell uh, we could
14 always tell Balanoff and Stern that uh,
15 uh, Emil, I'm just thinkin', Emil told
16 us that Obama wants him. Kinda forces
17 Obama to call ya. Say, guys I can't, I
18 can't know which is true.

19 BLAGOJEVICH Listen, I wanna, I wanna war game this a
20 little bit, okay?.

21 HARRIS Mm-hmm.

22 BLAGOJEVICH You can't pull, you can't do the Health
23 and Human Services thing with them right
24 now, right? We're just listening.

25 HARRIS Right.

26 BLAGOJEVICH Right? I don't throw that out now, do
27 I?

28 HARRIS No, no, no, you don't throw that out
29 now. Too soon. First we gotta act, I
30 think, puzzled.

1 BLAGOJEVICH Right. And then the other thing is, you
2 know, we should talk...I want you to
3 think about whether I just say, hey
4 look, what about, what about Lisa
5 Madigan and then explain, okay, there's
6 a carrot and a stick thing goin' on
7 right now. Callin' everybody...

8 HARRIS Certain people have approached us,
9 tellin' us that this is Madigan's
10 design.

11 BLAGOJEVICH That he wants...

12 * * * * *

13 BLAGOJEVICH ...to say hey. Whatya do to keep
14 him...I mean Emil is a possibility. I'm
15 not gonna rule him out by any means.

16 HARRIS No, no, I think they're just goin' to...

17 BLAGOJEVICH He's a fall-back.

18 HARRIS ...going to the box is more than enough
19 message, warm and comfort stroke.

20 BLAGOJEVICH I mean he had John Kelly call me.

21 HARRIS Yeah, that's not right.

22 BLAGOJEVICH I mean when do you have the conversation
23 with him about that other thing we
24 talked about?

25 HARRIS Trying to meet with him off campus
26 somewhere.

27 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah. 'Cause an off-campus...that's a
28 tactical thing. An off-campus
29 discussion on that subject...

30 HARRIS Mm-hmm.

31 BLAGOJEVICH ...will make him feel better about his
32 chances.

33 HARRIS Mm-hmm.

1 BLAGOJEVICH Right?

2 HARRIS Mm-hmm.

3 BLAGOJEVICH In his mind. Do you agree with that?

4 HARRIS Mm-hmm. Or if he has no intention of
5 doin' it, it may push him away. If he
6 thinks, you know, if that's the uh...

7 BLAGOJEVICH Alright, don't have the conversation
8 with him then. Forget it. Don't even,
9 don't even do it. I don't wanna...I'll
10 talk to you about it when I see ya.

11 HARRIS Okay. You see what I mean? It could
12 backfire.

13 BLAGOJEVICH No, you've got the wrong thing.

14 HARRIS Okay.

15 BLAGOJEVICH That's not, that's not what I'm talkin'
16 about.

17 HARRIS Okay.

18 BLAGOJEVICH Prospective help.

19 HARRIS Right.

20 BLAGOJEVICH Is what I'm talkin' about.

21 HARRIS Right.

22 * * * * *

23 BLAGOJEVICH Do they think that, they think that I
24 would just appoint Valerie Jarrett for
25 nothin'? Just to make him happy?

26 HARRIS Yeah, along with what we talked about
27 the other...

28 BLAGOJEVICH They'd help me...

29 HARRIS ...help, help the, the political, your
30 political agenda, your, meaning your uh,

1 your governing agenda, not your
2 political agenda.

3 BLAGOJEVICH My governing agenda?

4 HARRIS Yeah.

5 BLAGOJEVICH That was brought to your attention?

6 HARRIS No, no, I'm just guessin', when you
7 said...

8 BLAGOJEVICH Well Marilyn Katz was their first
9 emissary, right?

10 HARRIS Right.

11 BLAGOJEVICH And she was talkin' about fundraising.

12 HARRIS Yeah. She was talkin' about friends
13 around the country, that would be
14 appreciative, and their ability to help
15 with fundraising and uh, the media would
16 be all over you uh, crediting you for
17 the choice, a wise, such a wise choice,
18 and that she would work tire-,
19 tirelessly as, as would other allies of
20 his to get you good press on this
21 appointment.

22 BLAGOJEVICH Good press.

23 HARRIS (Chuckles)

24 BLAGOJEVICH That's all she's offering?

25 HARRIS Mm-hmm.

26 BLAGOJEVICH No, friends around the country.

27 HARRIS Yeah, friends around the country, with
28 positive local media.

29 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah...

30 * * * * *

1 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah. And everything you've talked
2 about in health care is what we've
3 either done, or we're workin' to try to
4 get done. Okay. Who's done more for
5 health care in any state than me, right?
6 Heck of a lot more than Tommy Thompson
7 did. Is that fair to say or no?

8 HARRIS Um, don't know. Probably.

9 BLAGOJEVICH Well no...

10 HARRIS If it were repeated nationwide, oh yeah,
11 it would be, and what he did in
12 Wisconsin, yeah, absolutely.

13 BLAGOJEVICH What I've done.

14 HARRIS Right, right. What you've done in
15 Illinois.

16 BLAGOJEVICH Kaiser Foundation ranked us number one.
17 I don't know if we still are, but we
18 were. In expanding health care, under
19 me.

20 HARRIS Mm-hmm.

21 BLAGOJEVICH Can, can you get that, get that for me?
22 Not right now, but that should be part
23 of a...I mean, we're not gonna talk
24 about that with Balanoff, but you know
25 what I'm sayin'.

26 HARRIS Right, right...

27 BLAGOJEVICH Huh?

28 HARRIS ...right.

29 (PAUSE)

30 BLAGOJEVICH This is good to...

31 * * * * *